

## MAY 2017 - ADVISORY COMMENTARY

APRIL ENDED UP BEING A LARGELY POSITIVE MONTH FOR MOST STOCK AND FIXED-INCOME MARKETS AND A NEGATIVE MONTH FOR MOST AREAS IN THE COMMODITY SPACE. APRIL SAW A CONTINUED DROP IN VOLATILITY, CULMINATING IN SOME RECORD-SETTING LOW-VOLATILITY STREAKS FOR MANY EQUITY MARKETS AROUND THE WORLD.

FOR THE MONTH OVERALL, WE EXPERIENCED OUTPERFORMANCE IN OUR ALLOCATIONS TO LARGE-CAP GROWTH, SMALL-CAP GROWTH AND MID-CAP STOCKS. OUR EMERGING MARKETS EQUITY POSITION SAW VERY POSITIVE GAINS OF 2.79%, MAINLY OCCURRING OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF THE MONTH.

WE EXPERIENCED UNDERPERFORMANCE IN OUR ALLOCATIONS TO LARGE CAP STOCKS. WE ALSO SAW MILD UNDERPERFORMANCE INSIDE OUR HEDGED EQUITY AND BUY-WRITE EQUITY STRATEGIES. THE PERFORMANCE IN THESE AREAS WERE GENERALLY DAMPENED BY THE CONTINUED DROP-OFF IN THE OVERALL LEVEL OF VOLATILITY IN EQUITY MARKETS ACROSS THE GLOBE.

WHILE GOLD SAW SOLID OVERALL GAINS OF 1.74% IN APRIL, THE PRECIOUS METAL EXPERIENCED A NOTICEABLE DECLINE OF ROUGHLY 1.5% OVER THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF THE MONTH AFTER BEING UP OVER 3% OVER THE FIRST HALF OF APRIL.

AS WE'VE SPOKEN ABOUT BEFORE, THE WEAK "HARD" ECONOMIC DATA THAT UNDERLIES THE VERY POSITIVE PERFORMANCE OF WORLD STOCK MARKETS CONTINUES TO BE AN AREA OF CONCERN FOR US. VALUATIONS CONTINUE TO BE STRETCHED EVER HIGHER, WHILE COMPANY EARNINGS AND ECONOMIC DATA JUST HAVEN'T QUITE COME TO THE RESCUE YET.

TROUBLING DATA IS NOW BEGINNING TO EMERGE IN AREAS SUCH AS AUTO LOAN & MORTGAGE DELINQUENCIES, CREDIT CARD WRITE-OFFS, RETAIL BANKRUPTCIES & JOB LAYOFFS TO NAME A FEW. WE CONTINUE TO WATCH THIS DATA TO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE IF THIS LONG, AND SLOWING, ECONOMIC RECOVERY CAN CHUG ALONG EVEN LONGER.

SINCERELY,



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## APRIL 2017 - MARKET UPDATE

### EQUITY MARKETS

- S&P 500 INDEX TR +1.03%
- DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE TR +1.45%
- NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX +2.30%
- RUSSELL 3000 INDEX TR +1.06%
- CBOE SPX MARKET VOLATILITY INDEX -12.53%

### FIXED INCOME MARKETS

- BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX +0.77%
- BARCLAYS U.S. TREASURY BOND INDEX +0.69%

### ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS, COMMODITIES & CURRENCIES

- S&P GSCI TOTAL RETURN INDEX -2.11%
- GSCI WEST TEXAS INTERMEDIATE EXCESS RETURN -3.24%
- U.S. DOLLAR INDEX -1.46%
- GOLD SPOT +1.74%
- DOW JONES COMPOSITE REIT INDEX TR +0.61%
- CBOE BUYWRITE MONTHLY INDEX +0.91%

ANCHORED GROWTH BENCHMARK +0.94%

(70% RUSSELL 3000, 25% BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX, 5% CASH)

FOUNDATION TOTAL RETURN BENCHMARK +0.84%

(50% RUSSELL 3000, 40% BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX, 10% CASH)

INFLATION-PLUS INCOME BENCHMARK +0.35%

(40% BARCLAYS U.S. AGGREGATE BOND INDEX, 40% BARCLAYS U.S. TREASURY SHORT INDEX, 20% CASH)

\*SOURCE: KWANTL.COM (5/8/17). INDEXES ARE UNMANAGED AND CANNOT BE INVESTED INTO DIRECTLY. UNMANAGED INDEX RETURNS DO NOT REFLECT FEES, EXPENSES, OR SALES CHARGES. INDEX PERFORMANCE IS NOT INDICATIVE OF THE PERFORMANCE OF ANY INVESTMENT. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NO GUARANTEE OF FUTURE RESULTS.



The Standard & Poor's 500 Index is a capitalization-weighted index of 500 stocks designed to measure performance of the broad domestic economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

Dow Jones Industrial Average is the most widely used indicator of the overall condition of the stock market, a price-weighted average of 30 actively traded blue chip stocks, primarily industrials. The 30 stocks are chosen by the editors of the Wall Street Journal. The Dow is computed using a price-weighted indexing system, rather than the more common market cap-weighted indexing system.

The NASDAQ Global Market Composite consists of 1,450 stocks that meet NASDAQ's strict financial and liquidity requirements, and corporate governance standards. The Global Market Composite is less exclusive than the Global Select Market Composite.

The Russell 3000 Index is a market capitalization weighted equity index maintained by the Russell Investment Group that seeks to be a benchmark of the entire U.S. stock market. More specifically, this index encompasses the 3,000 largest U.S.-traded stocks, in which the underlying companies are all incorporated in the U.S.

The CBOE SPX Market Volatility Index shows the market's expectation of 30-day volatility. It is constructed using the implied volatilities of a wide range of S&P 500 index options. This volatility is meant to be forward looking and is calculated from both calls and puts. The VIX is a widely used measure of market risk and is often referred to as the "investor fear gauge."

The Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index is a broad-based flagship benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, MBS (agency fixed-rate and hybrid ARM pass-throughs), ABS and CMBS (agency and non-agency).

The Barclays US 7-10 Year Treasury Bond Index measures the performance of U.S. Treasury securities that have a remaining maturity of at least seven years and less than 10 years.

The S&P GSCI is recognized as a leading measure of general price movements and inflation in the world economy. The index – representing market beta – is world-production weighted. It is designed to be investable by including the most liquid commodity futures, and provides diversification with low correlations to other asset classes.

The GSCI West Texas Intermediate Excess Return Index reflects the returns that are potentially available through an unleveraged investment in the West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil futures contract plus the Treasury Bill rate of interest that could be earned on funds committed to the trading of the underlying contracts.

The U.S. Dollar Index is a measure of the value of the U.S. dollar relative to majority of its most significant trading partners. This index is similar to other trade-weighted indexes, which also use the exchange rates from the same major currencies.

Gold Spot refers to the price paid for current delivery of 1 ounce of physical gold.

The Dow Jones Composite REIT Index contains all publicly traded U.S. REITs in the S&P Dow Jones Indices U.S. stock universe that are classified into one of three subcategories—equity, mortgage or hybrid—as defined by the REIT/RESI Industry Classification Hierarchy.

The CBOE S&P 500 BuyWrite Index (BXM) is a benchmark index designed to track the performance of a hypothetical buy-write strategy on the S&P 500 Index.



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